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CONFIDENTIAL

DIST 20 AUGUST 1974

1.5 (C)

1. IN HID-AUGUST, GEYERAL GUSTAVO L E 1 G H, AIR FORCE

MEMBER, OF THE JUNTA. INFORMED

THAT HE HAS PRESSING FOR A QUICK REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE ASSEMBLED

AGAINST THE DETAINED OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER POPULAR UNITY (U.P.)

GOVERNMENT. LEIGH BELIEVES THAT THOSE U.P.LEADERS, AGAINST

WHOM THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO WARRENT A TRIAL, SHOULD

BE RELEASED AND EXILED FROM CHILE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;

2. LEIGH SAID THAT ADMIRAL JOSE MERING, NAVY MEMBER

OF THE JUNTA, IS IN ACCORD WITH THE ABOVE SUGGESTION. "JUNTA

PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET IS STILL UNDECIDED AND,

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DATE JUN 1 1 1999

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ACCORDING TO LEIG H, PINOCHET IS BEING PRESSED BY SOME ARMY
GENERALS TO REJECT LEIGH'S PROPOSAL.. GENERAL CESAR

ME NDO 2 A, CARABINERO MEMBERO FT HE JUNTA: ALSO HAS NOT
COMMITTED HIMSELFO NIHE PROPOSAL.

THATSINGEPINOCHET'S APPOINTMENT
A SCHIEFO F STATE, RELATION SECTMEENPINOCHETON THE ONE HAND
ANDMERING ANDLEITHON THE OTHER HAVE BECOME SLIGHTLY STRAINED.
AS EXAMPLES HE CITED A RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW IN WHICH PINOCHET
SAID THAT HE MADBEEN PLANNING THE OVERTHROW OF FORMER PRESIDENT
SALVADOR ALLENDE FOR A YEAR PRIOR TO THE 11 SEPTEMBER
1973 COUPDIETAT. LEIGH AND MERINO CONFRONTED PINOCHET REGARDING
THE STATEMENT AND SAID THAT TO THE IRKNOWLEDGEH IS COMMITMENT
AND PARTICIPATION DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL
HOVE. ACCORDING TO LEIGH, PINOCHET WAS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED WITH THE CRITICISM AND SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE HE WOULD

4. LEIGH SAID THAT HE AND MERING WERE ALSO OPPOSED TO PINOCHET'S DECISION TO REPLACE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL. PINOCHETTOLD THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS THE A TIME DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE THE COMPTROLLER SEVERAL HADE I'R ED ONLY FIVE OF 12 IDENTIFIED Cot!-

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LEIGH WAS

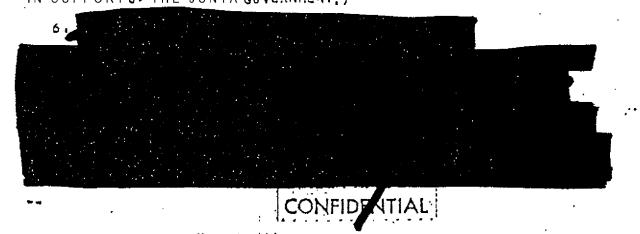
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MUNISTSWORKING IN HIS OFFICE, LEIGH AND MERIND ARGUED THAT WHILETHIS HAY BE TRUE, THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL WAS PERSONALLY DOING A VERY GOOD JOBAND WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE JUNTA.

COMMENT: THE PRESS OF 12 AUGUST REPORTED THAT THE COMPTROLLER HAD SUBMITTED HIS REQ UEST FOR RETIREMENT, INTER-'ESTINGLY, THE PRESS OF 19 AUGUST REPORTED THAT HE WITHDREW THE REQUEST.

5. LEIGHTOLD THE GENERALS THAT HE HAS ALSO EXPRESSEDHIS OPPOSITIONTO THE IDEA OF ALLOWING CIVIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 11SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY TAKEOVER.

ALSO OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF CREATING A NATIONAL CIVIC MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT.)



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